

In a report on January 30, 1947 on production results in the USSR the Moscow radio made the following comment on the 1946 drought in Russia. -

"Agriculture in 1946 was largely influenced by the unfavorable weather conditions of the year, conditions which prevailed in the....west and over a considerable portion of the European territory of the USSR. The drought which began early in the spring in the....., quickly spread to the southwest areas of the Ukraine, engulfed almost all the areas of the central black-soil zone, including the northern regions of the Ukraine. As a.... the drought spread to the....regions of the lower.... No similar drought has been experienced by the country during the past 50 years.

"The extent of the territory stricken by the drought of 1946 was greater than that of 1921 and was closer to the area stricken in 1891. In spite of this the total crop of grain and seed in 1946 was incomparably greater than that of 1921. This was possible only thanks to the Socialist organization of production and the machine-tractor stations and the collective farm system, created in the years of the Stalin Five-Year Plans.

"In the areas not stricken by the drought, particularly in west Siberia and Kazakhstan, agricultural crops in 1946 were considerably greater than those of 1945. The grain crops in Kazakhstan and western Siberia were one and a half time greater than in 1945, and in the Altai region two and three-tenths times. The production of cotton in the USSR in 1946 was 34 per cent greater than in 1945. However, as a result of the drought, in many regions the crops of grains, sunflower and sugar beets and, in the USSR as a whole, were considerably smaller than in 1945.

"The Government of the USSR has taken measures to render assistance to the affected areas with food, seed and fodder. Measures for economy in the expenditure of food were also taken."

(Daily Report, No. 273 - 1947. Page R2, Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Jan. 30, 1947, 5:30 p.m. EST)

Further references to the severity of the 1946 drought appear in subsequent broadcasts of the Moscow radio as follows:

(Moscow, Soviet Home Service, January 27, 1947, 11:15 a.m. EST)

"One should keep in mind the difficulties suffered by the peasants as a result of the loss of horses and oxen during the war. Besides, last year several Provinces of the Russian Federation suffered from a bad drought. Such a drought had not been experienced on USSR territory in the last 50 years."

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Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Feb. 3, 1947, 12:00 a.m. EST

"Report meetings (of farmers) are now taking place in collective farms and they show the farmers' realization of the efforts that will be necessary to overcome the effects of the war and drought. Defects are noted and concrete measures taken for the further developments of agriculture."

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Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Feb. 7, 1947, 12:00 a.m. EST

"... the post-war reconversion of industry has been largely completed. The output of civilian goods has increased in the course of the year. The country is healing the wounds inflicted by the war and constantly masters the difficulties caused by the cruel drought."

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Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Feb. 1, 1947, 12:01 a.m. EST

"The help which industry renders to Socialist agriculture is an important factor in the struggle for a good crop, and in efforts to master the difficulties caused by the war and the past year's drought, which has overtaken many parts of our country."

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Moscow, Soviet Home Service, Feb. 17, 1947, 4:30 a.m. EST

"The Republic agricultural conference ended yesterday in Kiev. The conference considered results of the 1946 agricultural year and the plans for 1947. All conferees agreed on the necessity of increased production and higher yields and labor productivity. Despite the droughts and unfavorable weather, last year's crops in the Ukraine were good."

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(Note: the last four citations from the Moscow radio broadcasts were quotations from PRAVDA)